

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CATHOLICS LAUNCH MOVIMENTO POPOLARE

1. IT IS WITH MORE CANDOR THAN PRIDE THAT WE REPORT A CONFUSED PICTURE OF A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN CATHOLIC POLITICS IN LOMBARDY. THE GREAT DEBATE WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE CATHOLIC MOVEMENT FOLLOWING THE REVERSES OF THE REFERENDUM AND THE JUNE 15 ELECTIONS IS COMING TO A HEAD. ONE ASPECT OF THIS PROCESS IS THE PAINFUL LABOR OF THOSE IN LOMBARDY WHO ARE TRYING TO GIVE BIRTH TO A NEW NATIONAL STRUCTURE TO LINK THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND ITS FACTIONS TO VARIOUS CHURCH RELATED ORGANIZATIONS TO CONDUCT THE COMING POLITICAL STRUGGLE. IN VIEW OF THE CONFUSED PARENTAGE, PREVIOUS FALSE LABOR IN MID-NOVEMBER AND THE BAND OF POLITICAL MID-WIVES ELBOWING EACH OTHER ASIDE, THE OBSERVER CAN ONLY REPORT THAT THE ALREADY NAMED POLITICAL NEW-COMER, THE MOVIMENTO POPOLARE, IS NOW EXPECTED IN MILAN ON DECEMBER 21.

2. ON NOVEMBER 16, A GROUP OF MILAN DC LEADERS, BELONGING TO THE MAJOR FACTIONS (DOROTEA, FORZE NUOVE, BASE), MET WITH COMUNIONE AND LIBERAZIONE (CL) LEADERS TO FORM A NEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ALIGNMENT. ABOUT 70, REPRESENTING

VARIOUS CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS, ATTENDED THE MEETING ON A "PERSONAL BASIS." INCLUDED WERE: VITTORINO COLOMBO, GINO COLOMBO, ANDREA BORRUSO, MARESCO BALLINI, DINO LONGONI,

ALESSANDRO PASTORE, GIUSEPPE RICCA-(THE LAST FOUR ARE ALL MINOR CISL LEADERS) - FILIPPO HAZON, MEMBER OF THE DC LOMBARDY REGIONAL EXECUTIVE; JESUIT PADRE ANGELO MACCHI FROM THE CENTRO CULTURALE SAN FEDELE; GIOVANNI MARCORA, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FROM BASE; ROBERTO MAZZOTTA AND ANTONIO MARZOTTO FROM DC.

3. THE PLATFORM ON WHICH THE DISUSSION WAS BASED CALLED FOR A NEW SOCIETY RESPECTFUL OF THE HUMAN BEING, SUPPORTING UNITY IN EVERY FIELD, BUILT TO SEVE THE PEOPLE AND NOT VICE VERSA. SUCH A SOCIETY SHOULD BE ANTI-CAPITALISTIC, ANTI-IMPERIALISTIC AND ANTI-MATERIALISTIC AND COULD ONLY BE BUILT THROUGH A MOVEMENT OR A PARTY THAT IS THE TRUE EXPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE. THIS CREDO PREPARED BY CL, CLAIMED THAT SUCH ENERGY CAN BE FURNISHED ONLY BY THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY. IT IS THEY WHO INTEND TO WORK IN THAT SPIRIT.

4. THE MEETING WAS INTENDED TO GIVE BIRTH TO THE "MOVIMENTO POPOLARE." A PRESS REEASE SAID THAT: "THE POPULAR MOVEMENT IS NOT INTENDED TO SUBSTITUTE ANY OF THE EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS OF CATHOLIC INSPIRATION. IT IS NEITHER A NEW PARTY, NOR A NEW FACTION INSIDE THE DC. IT IS A NEW REALITY TO STIMULATE ACTION IN THE ENTIRE CATHOLIC WORLD, WHICH CAN THUS FIND ITS UNITY AGAIN, ENABLING CATHOLICS TO RENDER A BETTER SERVICE TO SOCIETY". THE DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT OUTLINED THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE MOVIMENTO POPOLARE SAYING THAT IT WOULD BE "A STRONG DEFENDER OF DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES AND OF PERSONAL

RESPONSABILITY, OPEN TO CONFRONTATION WITH ALL THOSE WHO, IN DEIFFERENT SOCIAL REALITITES, SUPPORT THE SAME PRINCIPLES." ACCORDING TO ITS PRESS RELEASE, PLURALISM MUST BE MORE THAN A FORMALITY. IT MUST BE THE TRUE EXPRESSION OF DIALECTIC CONFRONTATION AMONG DIFFERENT CULTURES WHICH ARE ALWAYS TO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY OF POLITICAL INITIATIVE.
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4. THE PRESENCE OF MILAN DC LEFT WING BOSS MINISTER MARCORA WAS BIG NEWS. BUT THE CORRIERE REPORTED THAT HE LATER DENIED THAT THE MP WAS POLITICAL. IT WAS PURELY A CULTURAL GATHERING.

5. DESPITE THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE ORGANIZERS THAT THE MP WOULD BE LAUNCHED ON NOVEMBER 16, SOMETHING WENT

WRONG WITH REAT COALITION OF CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS CLUSTERED ABOUT CL DIDN'T QUITE JELL. THE REASONS ARE NOT CLEAR. BUT ONE MAJOR OBSTACLE WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CATHOLICS WHO ARE BOTH WORRIED ABOUT CL BECOMING AN UNCONTROLLED MONSTER AND THOSE WHO FELT THAT THE CENTER OF GRAVITY IN THE MP WAS TOO FAR RIGHT.

6. NOW A NEW LAUNCHING IS SCHEDULED FOR MILAN ON DECEMBER 21 WITH A NEW PLATFORM (POUCHED SEPARATELY) DESIGNED TO TONE DOWN SOME OF THE MORE RADICAL CL ECONOMIC PLANKS. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PROMOTERS IS TO CREATE A NATION WIDE MP STRUCTURE TO HARNESS THE ENTIRE ITALIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY TO WIN THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

7. THE MOST PASSIONATE ADVOCATE FOR THIS ENTERPRISE IS DON LUIGI GIUSSANI, THE INTELLECTUAL STIMULATOR AND GUIDE FOR CL. HE AND MILAN CL LEADER BORRUSO, SEE MP AS A LIAISON INSTRUMENT TO GIVE CL A POLITICAL MACHINE TO CARRY OUT IN PRACTICE THE IDEOLOGICAL GOALS OF THE CL MOVEMENT ON A NATIONAL SCALE. AND ONE CANNOT DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH DON GIUSSANI WITHOUT CONCLUDING THAT HE REPRESENTS A CLERICAL CONCEPTION OF ITALIAN SOCIETY.

8. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT CL IS NECESSARILY CLERICAL NOR THAT MP MAY BE SO. BOTH ARE SUBJECT TO MUCH BROADER FORCES. AND FOR THAT REASON THE FUTURE OF MP REMAINS A MYSTERY. AT THE MOMENT WE ARE BOTH TOLD THAT IT IS NOT DESTINED TO PERFORM THE ROLE SOUGHT FOR IT BY CL AND THAT EVERYONE WANTS TO JOIN UP * BOTH MAY BE TRUE IF THE REQUESTS TO ADHERE ARE DESIGNED BY ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OPPONENTS TO TAKE IT OVER AND TO STEER IT BACK TO CULTURAL PURSUITS.

9. PRECISELY BECAUSE THE ENTIRE CATHOLIC UNIVERSE IN LOMBARDY IS IN MOVEMENT, THE DECEMBER 21 LAUNCHING IN MILAN IS BOTH IMPORTANT AND UNPREDICATABLE. IT MAY, OR MAY NOT OPEN A NEW PHASE IN LOCAL AND NATIONAL POLITICS. BUT DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS, WE ARE STILL UNABLE TO DECIDE HOW SIGNIFICANT THE MOVIMENTO POPOLARE WILL IN FACT BECOME.FINA

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